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[redacted]

30 September 1963

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State Department review completed

GROUP 1
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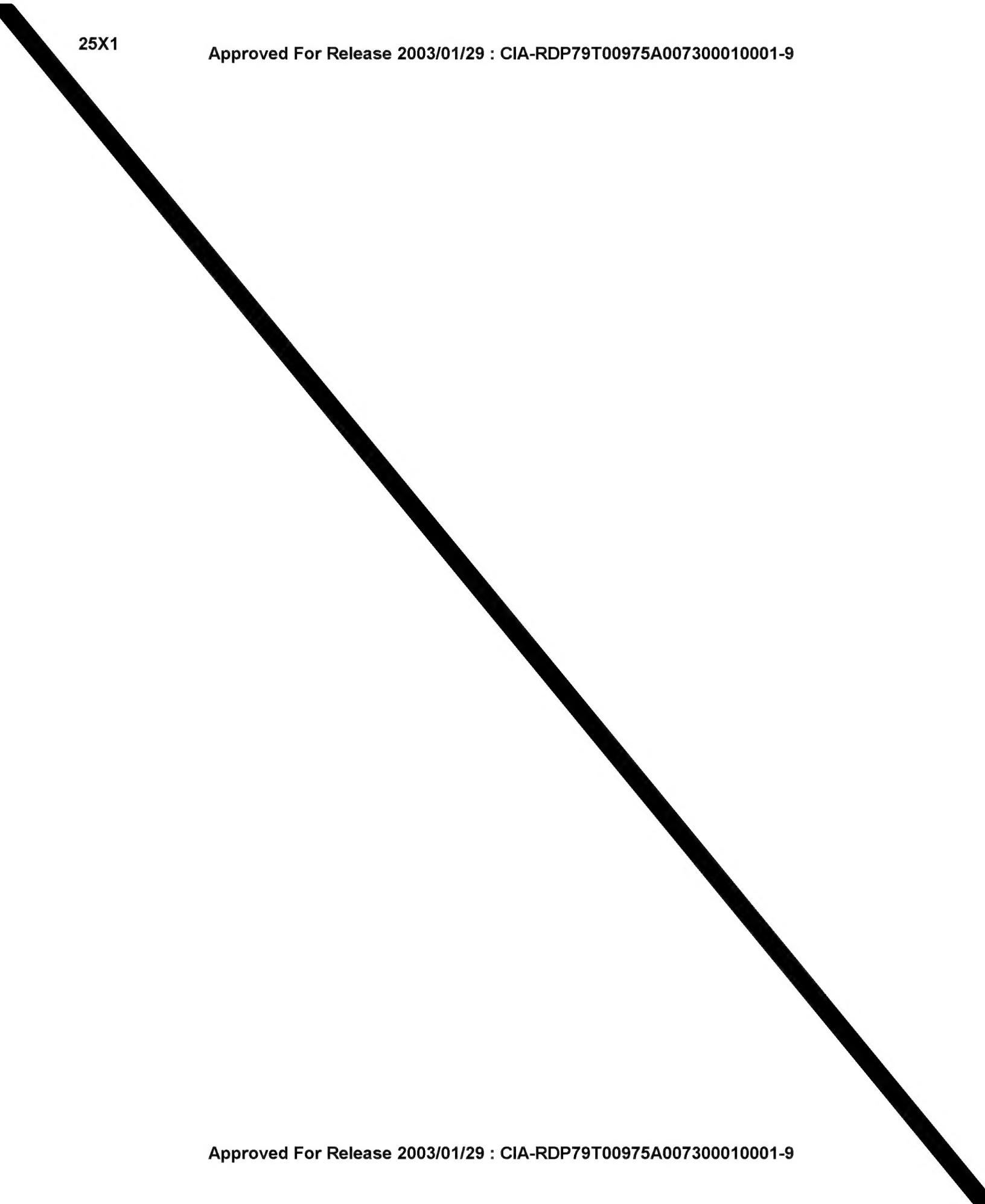

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DAILY BRIEF

South Vietnam: Vietnamese military leaders claim that they are pressing Diem to appoint senior generals to key cabinet posts, such as Defense and Interior, and to undertake other governmental reforms.

25X1 [redacted] the generals have given Diem until 4 October to

25X1 comply. [redacted] Diem now realizes that reforms are necessary to combat the Viet Cong threat and therefore will accept the generals' recommendations.

25X1 [redacted] Diem has already taken a first step by placing the Special Forces of Colonel Tung--a staunch supporter of Nhu--directly under the Joint General Staff. 25X1

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The intentions of Diem and Nhu remain unclear. They may be attempting to deflect military disaffection

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by discussing reforms they do not intend to implement fully. At the same time, some unilateral move by Nhu cannot be discounted.

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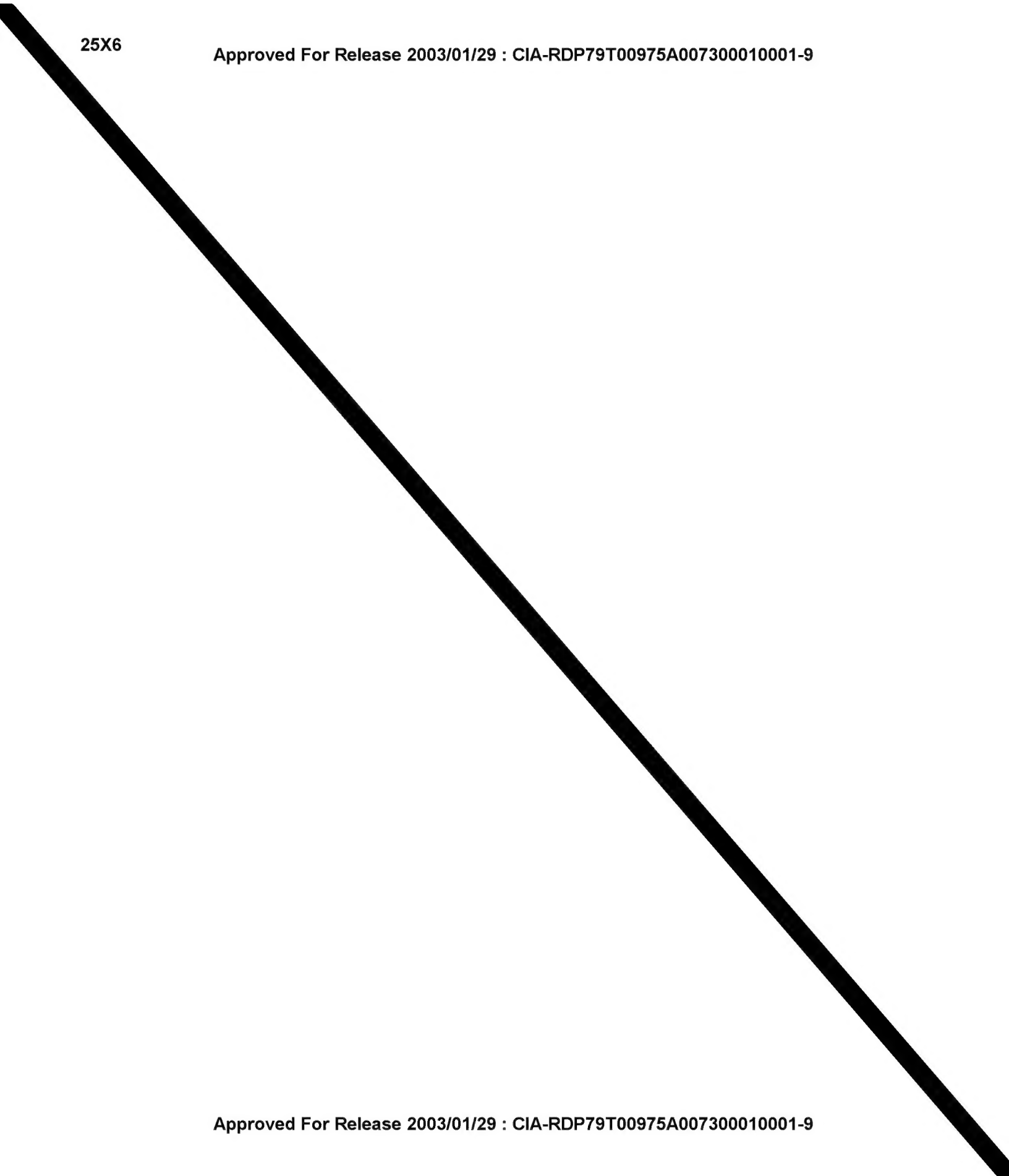

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Dominican Republic: The appointment of several discredited and mutually antagonistic rightist politicians to the new cabinet presages a period of instability.

The US Embassy in Santo Domingo comments that the appointment of Angel Severo Cabral as the new secretary of state for Interior and Police is "most unfortunate," since Cabral is a fanatic anti-Communist whose inflexibility damaged the unity of his party, the National Civic Union, in the December 1962 election. The embassy is particularly concerned that Cabral might initiate an anti-Communist "witch hunt" which could dangerously increase local tensions.

The appointment of Mario Read Vittini, president of the splinter Christian Democratic Party, as secretary of state for the presidency brings to that office an unscrupulous and ambitious politican who formerly served as vice president of dictator Trujillo's Dominican Party.

Ambassador Martin comments that on balance the new cabinet appears to represent little if any improvement over that of Bosch, although it may prove to be "easier to work with" from the US point of view. Given the competing interests of the six political parties from which the cabinet was drawn, internal squabbling and divisions appear inevitable.

Neither Bosch's moderate leftist Dominican Revolutionary Party nor the pro-Castro, Communist-infiltrated 14th of June Political Group has been outlawed, and there are some indications that they may join forces in antigovernment activities. Such moves could prompt harsh repressive measures from the military-police backers of the regime.

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Greece: King Paul's acceptance of Premier Pipinelis' resignation and the selection of a new cabinet of nonpolitical figures, headed by Supreme Court Justice Stylianos Mavromichalis, are designed to reduce political tensions in Greece. The largest of the opposition parties, the non-Communist Center Union, had threatened "militant abstention" from elections scheduled on 3 November unless Pipinelis were replaced by a less controversial figure. It now appears ready to participate.

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*Algeria: President Ben Bella can be expected to move firmly to contain opponents of his regime who demonstrated on 29 September in Tizi Ouzou, a traditional center of Berber dissidence in the Kabylie mountains east of Algiers. Although clashes are possible between forces led by Mohand ou el Hadj, whom Ben Bella yesterday dismissed as commander of Algeria's seventh military region, and troops loyal to Ben Bella, the dissidents are probably not capable either of upsetting the Ben Bella regime or of modifying the one-party system endorsed in the constitutional referendum on 8 September.

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*Congo: President Kasavubu's closing of the Congolese parliament last night is likely to cause new demonstrations in Leopoldville but the government appears confident of its ability to maintain order. Kasavubu finally acted after recent leftist disturbances convinced him the continuation of an irresponsible parliament--which has failed to take any action on the new constitution--would result only in renewed anti-government agitation.

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